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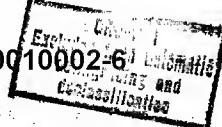
DRAFT

27 January 1964

Soviet Ninth Antarctic Expedition to
Augment Activity for the IGY

The transcontinental air delivery of 72 scientists and technicians from the USSR to Mirnyy, the main station, on 3 January 1964, initiated the largest Soviet Antarctic undertaking since their IGY program, 1957-58. More than 400 are participating of whom 136 are to winter over. The Antarctic flagship, the Ob, and the Kstoniya rendezvoused at the sea ice edge 13.5 n. miles off Mirnyy on 10 January and are now breaking an ice channel to Mirnyy to unload bulk freight. Basic geophysical research of previous seasons will be augmented by greater emphasis on upper atmospheric research, solar-terrestrial relationships and solar physics for the Soviet program of the International Year of the Quiet Sun (IGY). Observations will be undertaken on two scientific traverses, at already-established year-round coastal (Mirnyy, Molodezhnaya, Novolazarevskaya) and interior (Vostok) stations, airlifted scientific teams, and in the Antarctic waters of the Indian Ocean by the Ob for glaciological, seismic, gravimetric and geographic observations.

Traverse operations were launched on 4 January 1964 with one of the most ambitious to date; a 1500 n. mile traverse, under Andrey Kapitan, is headed westward from Vostok across unmapped regions to a point at 78° S., 25° E. where it will turn southward to the newest Soviet station, Molodezhnaya. The second traverse, a joint undertaking with 10 Soviets and 5 Frenchmen--the first such Soviet promotion outside of the Elles--will make observations between Vostok



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and Mirnyy on icecap movement and deformation.

Foreign year-round participation, the largest to date, will include 3 or 4 Czechs, a Hungarian, and, for the first time, a U.K.-Soviet scientist exchange in addition to the customary Soviet-U.S. scientist exchange. A U.K. glaciologist will be the first non-Bloc representative at Novolazarevskaya in exchange for a Soviet mineralogist at a U.K. station on Palmer Peninsula. The U.S. scientist will be the first non-Bloc representative at Vostok, in exchange for a Soviet Vostok-veteran at the U.S. Byrd station. A U.S. inspection of Vostok and Mirnyy was recently completed under provisions of the Antarctic Treaty.